

THE NEXUS Newsletter

Vol. 10, No. 2, Summer 2017

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE IDAHO LIBRARY COMMUNITY

"Yes to TBS" Campaign Coming this Fall

The Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS) will kick-off the "Yes to TBS" awareness and advocacy campaign this fall.

The TBS is a free library service for people who are unable to read standard print due to a physical disability. Audio cartridges of books and magazines, along with the easy-to-use players, are loaned to patrons of the service. The material is mailed "free matter for the blind or physically handicapped" directly to and from the user. And with more than 85,000 titles in its collection, in English and other languages, the TBS fulfills the reading needs of its patrons. In addition, there are many titles by Idaho authors and about the Gem State and its history.

The program is funded at the federal level by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) administers the Idaho TBS program for the nearly 3,000 Idahoans who use the service. And the ICfL contracts with the Utah TBS program to deliver Braille material to those Idahoans who need it.

The ICfL staff and volunteers who support the TBS perform such duties as: sending out the requested material to patrons; checking in and inspecting the returned cartridges; repairing the players; recording and producing the Idaho-themed books and magazines; and assisting patrons with their needs, including searching for books they will enjoy.

The ICfL will debut its "Yes to TBS" promotional campaign at the Idaho Library Association's (ILA) annual conference in October. Advocacy kits will be handed out, which include posters, brochures, buttons, bookmarks, and TBS applications. Libraries will be asked to advertise the TBS program by linking to its web page from the library's site, displaying the player and materials, and posting TBS-related material on their library's social media platforms. The ICfL will also fund TBS radio and TV spots, which will be broadcast statewide.

For more information, please contact the ICfL's Library Consultant, Sue Walker, at 208-334-2150 or via email at:

sue.walker@libraries.idaho.gov. Or visit the ICfL website at:

<http://libraries.idaho.gov/TBS>. There are

also TBS-related articles on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter.



Talking Book
Service player
and cartridge.

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ICfL INFO

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<http://libraries.idaho.gov>

MISSION

The Idaho Commission for Libraries assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their communities.

ICfL COMMISSIONERS

Dave Mecham, Janet Franklin, John Held,
Mark Alldredge, and Pat Raffee.

ICfL CONTACTS

Administrators

Ann Joslin, State Librarian
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Talking Book Service (TBS) Info to Know

Patrons of the Talking Book Service (TBS) receive an audio book or magazine on a cartridge, which is delivered to their home by the U.S. Postal Service. There is no cost to the users of the service. The material is sent "free matter for the blind or physically handicapped."



A higher-capacity cartridge, called the Patron Centric Cartridge (PCC), is now also available. The PCC allows for multiple titles on one cartridge and has an extended check-out time of six months. PCC works very well for avid readers. It is also a great option for books written as a series, for example. All of the titles in a series could be placed on one cartridge for the patron to read at their pace, with no waiting for the next cartridge to arrive in the mail.

Patrons can also get material directly by downloading it from the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD), which is a free service for registered TBS users. BARD is available 24/7; all titles are immediately accessible; and there is no due date.

BARD Mobile allows for easy access with an iPhone, iPad, iPod, Android device, or Kindle.

BARD Express is free software that makes downloading titles and transferring them to a USB drive simple on a Windows-based computer. The software also categorizes the material as books or magazines, and read or unread items, to make sorting and finding material easier.

The ICfL administers the Idaho Talking Book Service from its Boise office. TBS Customer Service Representatives are available to assist patrons Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., MT, excluding federal and State of Idaho holidays. The TBS may be reached at: 800-458-3271.

The U.S. Postal Service picks up very early in the morning from the TBS Boise office. So, when a patron calls in to request a book be sent to them, it will go out in the mail the next business day.



The check-out period for a traditional (non-PCC) cartridge is four weeks.

TBS patrons who are on a "turn around" service receive a new book after a previous one is returned. Those patrons enjoy the best service if they return a book as soon as they finish it. If the patron waits and returns multiple books at once, there will be a lag in their service. The computer system will send a new book only when a book is received and checked in by TBS staff.

The TBS Results Are In . . .

In early 2017, the Idaho TBS conducted a satisfaction survey of its nearly **3,000 patrons** -- and the results are in.

Idaho TBS Survey Respondents:

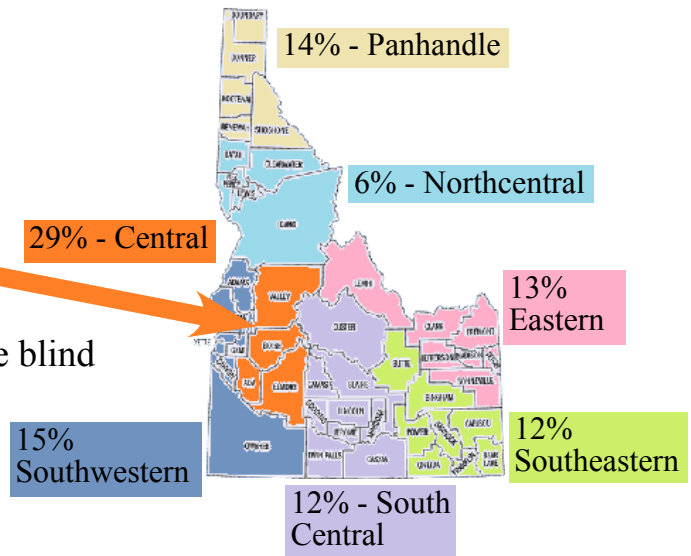
- 65% female
- 15% veterans
- 29% live in central Idaho
- 55% used TBS for 5 years or less
- 19% used TBS for 21 years or more
- 52% have visual impairment, 39% of whom are blind
- 80% use the service for recreational reading

Highly satisfied with the TBS service:

- 72% rate as "excellent"
- 24% rate as "good"

When the patron has contacted the Idaho TBS, they rated the customer service received:

- 83% as "excellent"
- 16% as "good"



What some of the patrons had to say about TBS . . .

"Would just be so lost without it. I can't even read large-print books anymore. With the talking books, I can listen."

"They put out books I needed for college in a timely manner."

"The service has saved my life. I was so depressed, and I can read with this service. If I have a question, I just call."

"Talking Book Service has very good quality readers."

"I like it because wherever I go, I can take it with me."

"I am very grateful that it is there because I have such a hard time reading. And I am home-bound and can't make it to the library."

"I couldn't survive without it."

"They know what I like, and they send it to me automatically. And if I see a book, I can just request it ... I think it's a great, great, program."

"I really appreciate it and want to thank whoever is funding it."

ICfL Volunteers Help It Happen

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) helps more than 850 public, school, academic, and special libraries in Idaho build the capacity to better serve their communities through statewide programming, continuing education, online resources, and building library community.

Its work is greatly enhanced by the volunteers who give of their time and talents to the ICfL and Idaho's libraries. In 2016, 93 individuals and 27 group members contributed 7,600 hours of service to the ICfL.

Many of those volunteer efforts are directed toward the Talking Book Service (TBS), which the ICfL administers for the Gem State. Some of the duties the volunteers undertake for the TBS include: reading the Idaho-themed books and magazines, which are produced by the ICfL; checking and editing the recordings; repairing the talking book machines; and processing the incoming and outgoing digital cartridges. This work helps to keep the Idaho TBS patrons supplied with books.

In 2016:

34 new Idaho books and **28** magazines issues were recorded, edited, and constructed;
21 analog-to-digital conversions were done;
71 Idaho books were uploaded to the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD);
and **151,329** TBS books were inspected.

Each year, the ICfL honors its volunteers with the "Volunteer Cafe," hosted by staff, a luncheon, and an outing, which, in 2017, was a behind-the-scenes look at the Egyptian Theatre, in downtown Boise. Held in June, the luncheon brought 63 past and present volunteers to the ICfL for a catered lunch with staff. Many volunteers took the opportunity to re-connect with ICfL Volunteer Coordinator Sheila Winther, who retires in mid-July, after 25 years with the Commission.

When Winther joined the ICfL, "volunteer management" was not a recognized vocation. For her, it was something to be learned on the job -- along with operating the recording and editing equipment for the TBS books. Winther grew the volunteer program from the seven people she began it with, to the more than 85 volunteers she manages, who regularly contribute to the ICfL and its mission. In her 25 years, Winther worked with more than 2,500 volunteers.

In 2014, Winther achieved one of her greatest professional successes when the National Library Service (NLS) agreed to upload Idaho-produced books to the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD). Previously, the NLS said that locally-produced material was not up to their standards. But Winther and her cadre of dedicated and talented volunteers proved NLS wrong. They accepted Idaho's very first submission -- with no changes required. To date, Idaho has more than 100 books uploaded on BARD.



Volunteer Connie Newman (left) confers with ICfL Volunteer Coordinator Sheila Winther (right), as Connie edits the electronic recording of a TBS book.



ICfL's Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, June 2017.

The volunteers contribute greatly to Idaho libraries and to the patrons of the Talking Book Service. And, the work is valuable for the volunteers as well. Winther said, "I feel like I have really made a difference for so many people who were searching for something meaningful to do, and this gave them that -- on a regular basis."

2016 Public Library Stats

The 2016 Public Library Statistics report has been mailed out.

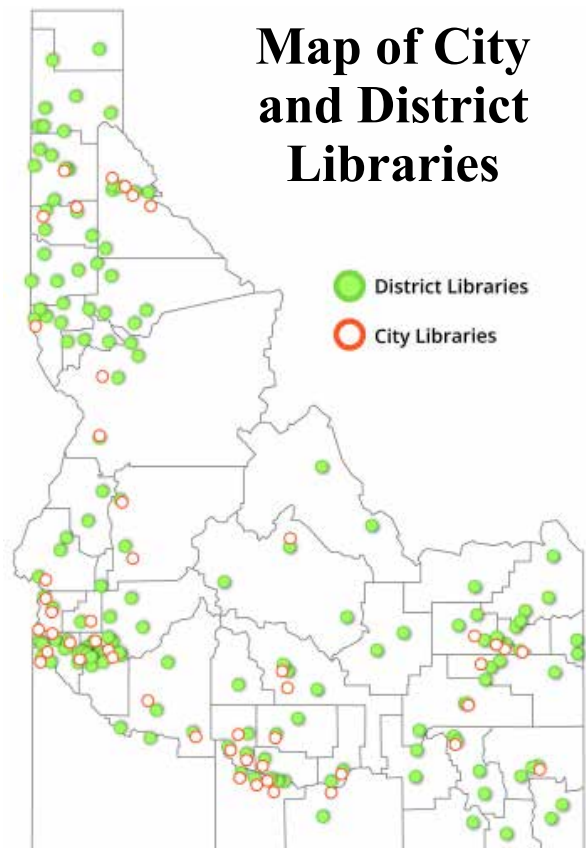
The report breaks the libraries out by size of population served and includes information on expenditures, collections, facilities, programs, internet usage, and more.

The legend of the map on page 5 of the report is **INCORRECT**. The district libraries should be designated with "green circles" and the city libraries with "red and white" circles, as the map on this page indicates.

If you would like to download the correct map, visit the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) website at: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/node/9177>.

If you have any questions about data or statistics, please contact the ICfL's State Data Coordinator, Patrick Bodily, at 208-525-7211 or via email at: patrick.bodily@libraries.idaho.gov.

You can also contact Patrick if there is data that you would find helpful but is not currently collected.



Pew Survey Finds Millennials Use Public Libraries the Most

A survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted in the fall of 2016, found that Millennials (ages 18 to 35) are the adult generation most likely to have visited a public library in the past year. The data shows that 53 percent of Millennials said they used a library or bookmobile in the previous 12 months.

Members of the youngest adult generation were also shown to have used library websites more than their elders. Approximately, 41 percent of Millennials used a library website, compared with 33 percent of Gen X-ers, and 24 percent of Baby Boomers.

The Pew Research Center found public library usage by age group, from the fall of 2015 to the fall of 2016, to be reported as:

- 53% of Millennials (ages 18 to 35)
- 45% of Gen X-ers (ages 36 to 51)
- 43% of Baby Boomers (ages 52 to 70)
- 36% of the Silent Generation (ages 71 to 88)

The Pew Research Center speculated that the relatively high library use by Millennials might correlate to the changes many public libraries have undergone in regard to extra services, such as literacy programs, meeting spaces, and technology.



FREE MONEY

We thought that might get your attention. Seriously, there is free money available to libraries to pay for Internet service. So, why wouldn't you take advantage of it? Maybe you think E-Rate and EOR are too complicated. That the process takes too much time. That your library's Internet is just fine as it is -- and it's already free. Or, maybe, you just can't stand one more acronym.

Well, stick with us here, and let's see if we can't clarify a few things and possibly change your mind on some others. Now, we'll be up-front about it . . . Yes, there are hoops to jump through. But the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) can, and will, help you jump through each and every hoop, each and every time. Really. Even if you already participate and need help each year when it's time to apply. The ICfL's Broadband Consultant, Dylan Baker, loves hoops. And broadband. And he knows a LOT about all of it.

E-rate* is the federal mechanism to help ensure that schools and libraries can obtain high-speed Internet access and telecommunications at affordable rates. E-rate funding is administered as a **discount** from the service provider. It ranges from 20 to 90 percent of the cost of the services.

The portion of the costs not discounted (covered) under E-rate can then be eligible for **reimbursement** under the State of Idaho's Education Opportunity Resource (EOR) Act. Through EOR, a public library can be reimbursed for the non-E-rate portion of its Internet services. And, the requirement that was present for the first year of EOR, which mandated libraries filter their Wi-Fi, is NO LONGER a requirement.

So, for example, if you apply and receive a discount on your Internet bill of 80 percent under E-rate, you would then apply to get the remaining 20 percent reimbursed under Idaho's EOR program -- bringing your cost to zero.

Sounds simple, right? Fill out a couple of forms and you've got your Internet paid for -- forever, right? Well, no. You have to apply each year. (Schedule and deadlines to follow.) And since you only complete each form once a year, it can be challenging to remember how to do it by the next time. Or maybe you have different staff members completing the forms from year to year.

Insert groaning and muttering here. Perhaps we've reached the problem . . . Too many forms, deadlines, confusion, and aggravation. Yes, there are forms and deadlines, but Dylan will help you through any and all confusion and/or aggravation.

Whether you are new to E-rate or have forgotten where to start, Dylan is happy to help. He will get on the phone, and/or computer, and walk through every step with you (or the appropriate member of your staff). Dylan even has a screen-sharing tool, so he can see exactly what you are looking at on your computer screen as you fill out the electronic E-rate form.

The other common reason many Directors have for not exploring E-rate and EOR is that their library already receives free Internet through a city contract or other mechanism. But what is the quality of that free Internet service? Is it really such a great deal if it's so slow that only one or two patrons or staff members can be on the Internet at a time?

E-rate and EOR present the opportunity for a library to increase its bandwidth and have a higher quality connection -- without being limited by budget.

Mostly. The State's EOR funding is a true reimbursement. So, the library does have to be able to cover the first six months of that portion of the cost before their reimbursement arrives. The ICfL administers the reimbursement and issues those checks twice a year. So, for the library, the EOR portion is an up-front cost.

Continued on Page 7.

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FREE MONEY

Continued from Page 6.

What should you expect if you decide to pursue E-rate and EOR funding for your library?

- The E-rate **Form 470** is due in early spring.
- The form is filled out electronically via the USAC (Universal Service Administrative Company) website and will take approximately 2 to 3 hours to complete.
- Internet companies will then provide bids about what services they can offer the library, based on what is requested in Form 470.
- The library will evaluate the bids -- another 1 to 2 hours -- and decide on the vendor that makes the most sense. (Once the library determines a vendor and is ready to sign a contract, approval by the library's Board is needed.)

- The E-rate **Form 471** is due in late spring/early summer.
- With Form 471, you are telling E-rate which quote you are choosing and how much it will cost.
- Form 471 will take between 1 and 2 hours to complete.
- E-rate will review your Form 471 and respond -- typically, with a funding commitment. Those are usually given in June or July.

- Once you have E-rate's funding commitment, the library must file **Form 486**, which is generally done in July or August.
- Form 486 will take about 1 hour to complete, at the most. Basically, Form 486 is a recap of the service, the funding level that E-rate committed to, and the library's agreement to comply with the E-rate requirements. The primary one is the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), which mandates an Internet content filter, of some sort, be active on all library computers.
 - And, if your library is participating in E-rate for the first time, you could get a one-year grace period regarding the CIPA requirement. You would not have to have a content filter in place to participate the first year.

- For the **EOR reimbursement**, the library has to complete a form twice a year -- another 1 to 2 hours to complete.

Overall, a library could expect to devote 6 to 12 hours a year -- spread over a six-month time frame -- to get a high-quality, high-capacity Internet connection at little or no cost.

If you are ready to pursue E-rate and/or EOR, or if you just have questions, please contact the ICfL's Broadband Consultant, Dylan Baker, at 208-639-4167 or via email at: dylan.baker@libraries.idaho.gov.

Dylan can help you or your staff through this process so your library can have the best Internet available for your patrons and staff -- at little or no cost.

*The E-rate program is formally known as the universal service Schools and Libraries Program.

Internet usage in Idaho's libraries continues to climb.

According to 2016 Idaho Public Library Statistics, public libraries provided Internet access more than 2.3 million times.

And wireless use grew more than 18 percent from fiscal years 2015 to 2016.

2017 Public Library Directors' Meet and Greet

In May, the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) brought 18 new public library directors together in Boise for the 2017 "Meet and Greet."

The day-long event presented new directors with information about the ICfL and its programs, resources, and services. The directors met the ICfL staff members, including State Librarian Ann Joslin, and learned about each of their duties and responsibilities, along with how they support and assist the libraries in Idaho. The directors found value in "putting a face with a name" and making a personal connection with someone they will be working with.

Another important component of the training was the "Program Showcase," where each of the ICfL's major programs were explained -- but in a "speed dating" sort of way. Two or three directors at a time visited each station, so they received personalized information. After the event, one director commented, "The 'speed dating' was awesome! I felt comfortable in a small group asking questions."

For some programs, the "Showcase" included demonstrations, such as, of the player used in the Talking Book Service and of the available items for a Make It program. There was a station for each of the following ICfL programs: Read To Me, Continuing Education, Libraries



Linking Idaho (LiLI), Let's Talk About It, Summer Reading, Broadband, the Talking Book Service, and Special Populations, including teens and tweens.

The participants were also given various materials and information to take with them for future reference and to share with their own staff.

If you would like to know more about what the ICfL can do to help you serve your patrons and your community, please refer to the list of ICfL contacts on Page 2 of this newsletter. If you are aren't sure where to start, just call the ICfL office at 208-334-2150. Or email Public Information Specialist Donna Eggers at: donna.eggers@libraries.idaho.gov.

From information about grants or books that may be available, to assistance with your website or E-rate application, the services and resources provided by the ICfL are diverse -- and available to you for the asking.

Feedback

about the Meet and Greet

Some of the positive comments:

"Thank you for making me feel welcome and showing me that I have a lot of support."

"Well organized. Loved the tour and meeting everyone. The nine round-table discussions."

"I really enjoyed the showcase to learn about the available resources."

And some of the suggestions for improvement and/or additions to the training:

"Maybe hear from website people, also, in the showcase."

"Grant writing workshop."

"... transitioning inventory and roles of the Library Board."

New Staff / Roles at the ICfL

Emily Sitz (pronounced "sights") joined the ICfL as the **Northern Idaho Field Consultant**. Emily hails from Kansas. She most recently held the position of Director of the Southwest Kansas Library System, which is one of seven regional systems in the state. It serves 21 counties and includes multi-type libraries. Prior to that role, which she held for 12 years, Emily was the Director of the Finney County Public Library in Garden City, Kansas. Believing the position at the ICfL presented the change she was looking for, Emily and her 19-year-old daughter, Meg, got out of Dodge (City) and now call Moscow home. In fact, Emily is hoping Meg will choose to become a "Vandal" and attend the University of Idaho and, also, that her eldest daughter will join the family out west. Of her new role, Emily said, "I think it is going to be fabulous to be working in more of a team environment. I'm really looking forward to that." Emily may be reached at: 208-882-8882 or via email at: emily.sitz@libraries.idaho.gov.



Emily Sitz

With the Commission since 2001 as the Networking Consultant, **Gina Persichini** has accepted the position of **Continuing Education Consultant**, vacated when Shirley Biladeau moved into the role of Program Supervisor.

Jamie Mott joined the ICfL as the **Grants/Contracts Officer**. A life-long library lover, one of Jamie's special memories from childhood includes trips to the main branch of the local library with her mom. Jamie earned her MLIS at Kent State University and has worked in public, academic, correctional, and government libraries.

After nearly five years as the ICfL's Grants Officer, **Kristina Taylor** has taken on the role of **Youth Services Project Coordinator** for the Commission. Kristina fills a vacancy left by Stephanie Bailey-White's promotion to Deputy State Librarian. She helps coordinate many youth services programs and initiatives, such as the Jump Start kindergarten registration program and Idaho Family Reading Week.

After 25 years with the Commission, **Volunteer Coordinator/Recording Studio Manager Sheila Winther** retired. Sheila will be missed by staff and the many volunteers who regularly give of their time and talent to the Commission.

And **Tiffany Duke** recently joined the ICfL as its **Receptionist**. Tiffany greets and helps patrons and visitors, in person and on the phone, along with assisting on various projects and aspects of the Commission's work. She came to Boise for a two-week vacation -- and ended up staying. Her, now, husband had a lot to do with Tiffany's relocation from Kirkland, Washington. Tiffany and her husband love to travel, and they have visited every art museum, big and small, in every city they have been to. Tiffany is a graduate of Boise State University, with a degree in creative writing. Of her new role, Tiffany said, "I joined the ICfL team because of the way it helps people throughout Idaho with plenty of programs."

Comings and Goings at Libraries around the State:

Chris Cooper has left his role as Director of the **Nampa Public Library**.

Erin Haley has left her role as Director of the **Payette Public Library**.

Jez Dene will be leaving her role as Director of the **Portneuf District Library** to pursue another opportunity. Holly Jackson will serve as the Interim Director.

Summer Learning / STEM and School Library Grants

Spring is a very busy time for the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) -- in large part due to the high volume of

books and materials that must be processed and sent out to the libraries that participate in summer reading, summer STEM, and other learning activities.

Thousands of books are processed -- in a matter of a few weeks!



ICfL Volunteer
Melody Lynch.



Volunteers help ICfL staff with the massive undertaking, as well. For example, in May, volunteers devoted more than 100 hours to stickering books.

In late spring, the ICfL received a \$30,000 grant from the STEM Action Center to facilitate the learning of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) by Idaho youth through school and public library outreach during the summer. A portion of the funding was awarded as micro-grants to 32 libraries for their STEM outreach. The grant also provides libraries with STEM-related books and materials for initiatives such as "Summer STEM from Your Library," which often complements existing Library in the Park outreach efforts.

In June, the ICfL awarded \$200,000 to 43 elementary school libraries for the 2017 - 2018 school year. The ICfL received the funding from the Idaho State Legislature and awarded the funds in the form of mini-grants, for amounts between \$3,000 and \$5,000, each. For 28 of the elementary school libraries, the funds will be used for the purchase of books and to facilitate a change in their school's policy that would allow the youngest students the opportunity of checking books out to take home. For 15 of the elementary school libraries, the funds will be used for the purchase of books and to keep the library open during the summer.



My First Books Story . . .

A young, single father of a pre-school-age child complained at the beginning of the school year that the library was wasting tax dollars by giving books to children "when reading does no good at the beginning of the year." But in April, the same young father informed the library staff how excited and grateful he was to have the books provided through the ICfL's My First Books program. The man admitted that he struggles with reading and was worried that he would be unable to read the books to his son. But the man found that the books helped him and his son, and the young father was proud to be able to help his son learn to read.

Library in the Park

Kicked Off in June in Boise

Summer is a great time to bring reading and learning opportunities to kids, where they are -- like the neighborhood park, playground, community center, etc.

This type of outreach helps combat the "summer slide" of learning loss. Youngsters who do not continue to read over the summer can lose up to three months of the reading achievement they made during the school year.

Boise's Library in the Park program kicked off in June, in partnership with the Idaho Foodbank. Area libraries take turns manning various locations, from parks to apartment complexes. The librarians bring books, educational materials, and story-time to the kids while they receive their lunch.



Library in the Park, Boise

Outreach Works in Idaho

In the summer of 2016,
55,449 children and teens
in Idaho
participated in summer reading and
learning outreach initiatives,
which is a **77 percent increase** over the prior year.

In addition,
52,009 youngsters
took part in summer learning programs
within their library's walls --

for a total of **107,458**
children and teens who participated
in summer learning activities
at their library and/or
through a library outreach effort in 2016.

Bellevue is No Longer Bursting at the Seams

The Bellevue Public Library really is at the heart of its small community of approximately 2,500 residents. And the library's Executive Director, Kristin Gearhart, and former Co-Director, Betsy Castle, found ways to accommodate all that the citizens wanted of the library, from meeting space to summer reading -- which had to be held outside (one summer it even snowed!).

But the two friends and colleagues never stopped working toward the future and the much-needed library expansion that they, and the whole town, dreamed of. That dream finally became a reality in April of 2017, when the Bellevue Public Library debuted its 1,000-foot expansion. Sadly, there was one significant shadow over the occasion, which was the absence of Betsy Castle. She passed away unexpectedly in January of 2016. Castle spearheaded the \$100,000 capital funding project for the expansion. In April of 2016, an anonymous donor contributed \$50,000 to the project.

The library has always been a safe place for the kids of Bellevue to frequent, especially as so many of their parents work outside the home. But, now that it is no longer bursting at the seams, all of the citizens of Bellevue are enjoying their library like never before. Joining summer reading and after-school programs are a number of initiatives geared for adults -- like book talks, GED assistance, speakers, and job services. And the library is a real community center, which is something the town sorely lacked. Congratulations to all those who call Bellevue home in the achievement of your goal to make the Bellevue Public Library an even greater, and more valuable, part of your community than it already was.



Members of the Bellevue community turned out to celebrate the larger library and remember its former Co-Director, who was honored with the "Betsy Castle Community Room" in the library she loved.

Kids -- and their Parents and Grandparents -- Are Learning from the Past in Glens Ferry

The Glens Ferry Public Library used funding it received from the STEM Action Center to conduct a four-part series of experiments inspired by a fictional diary of a family traveling -- and surviving -- the Oregon Trail in the 1800's. The diary, created by local teacher, Liza Martin, contains much information that is historically accurate. Kids and adults worked together to explore, learn, fail, and modify their projects until they found success. Library Director Jennifer Trail said one of her favorite things about the program is "the multi-generational learning that happens."

There were 10 teams of participants, who built wagons the first week. The next time, the groups then added weight to their wagons and tested rafts to keep everything afloat, after a discussion about how pioneers had to cross many rivers with their wagons. The participants all used the same wagon to fairly test the viability of their rafts. Next up for the teams was designing an animal trap and constructing a rock-mover using pulleys. The participants mixed their creativity with a variety of household materials. Also, they had to complete a planning worksheet and discuss ways to improve their designs. There have been guest judges each week from various organizations, including the STEM Action Center, the ICfL, and the State Parks Department. Trail said, "I love all the partnerships that it (the program) brings together, and I am so thankful for the opportunity to offer the program with a grant from the STEM Action Center." Trail added, "This was our second year offering the program, and I know people are beginning to look forward to it each coming year."





A new resource is available for your patrons in the form of the Live Better Idaho website: <http://www.livebetteridaho.org>. The website connects a variety of service providers with Idahoans seeking those services.

The Live Better Idaho (LBI) website is a sophisticated citizen portal that has been designed as a "one-stop-shop" for Idahoans to find the resources they need in many categories. The current categories include: financial, healthcare, food and nutrition, veterans' services, child care, family services, and work and education. More categories will be added in the future. This powerful platform brings a variety of organizations, departments, non-profits, and faith-based groups together as a virtual one-stop-shop for resources.



The Idaho Commission for Libraries is exploring options for partnering with Live Better Idaho and encourages local public libraries to do the same. LBI is a great tool to provide one more point of access to a variety of services for library users. For the library, it is a turnkey opportunity to gain relevant exposure by Idahoans who are looking for services that match their particular interests and needs. Visit the "partners" page of the LBI website for more information: <https://www.livebetteridaho.org/our-partners>.

Even if you do not want to partner with Live Better Idaho, your library can be a resource by furnishing information about LBI to your patrons. To request materials for your library, visit the "request business cards" page of the LBI website: <https://www.livebetteridaho.org/request-lbi-business-cards>. Or link to the LBI website from your library's webpage. For more information and/or assistance, you may contact the LBI staff via email at: partner@livebetteridaho.org.

Representatives from Live Better Idaho will also be available at the Idaho Library Association's annual conference in October, in Boise. It will be a great opportunity to connect with LBI and learn more.

ICfL Listens In at the Colorado Dialogue

Idaho Commission for Libraries' (ICfL) Program Supervisor Shirley Biladeau attended the recent Aspen Institute Colorado Dialogue on Public Libraries to listen in at the multi-stakeholder forum. The event was designed to identify strategic opportunities presented by the state's public libraries in response to the educational, economic, social, and technological transformations taking place across Colorado.

Participants were asked to identify models for community-library partnerships and innovation that currently work well, develop recommendations to strengthen existing initiatives, as well as, consider what new proposals, networks or partnerships might exploit new efficiencies and strengthen community resilience and sustainability.

Some of the comments from the day that focused on libraries included: libraries as a bridge to new relationships; as a connector to new ideas; as providing a safe place; as a convener of dialogues; and libraries as a knowledge curator.

The ICfL is looking at ways the Commission can foster these types of dialogues in Idaho, at the local level, for greater impact on the long-term sustainability of libraries in the Gem State.

For more information about the Aspen Institute, visit: <http://www.aspeninstitute.org>.

Why Didn't I Think of That?

The **Boise Public Library** is offering a new teens-only reading group. It is open to anyone, ages 13 to 18, and focuses on contemporary young-adult fiction, non-fiction, and online articles.

The **Nampa Public Library** holds "Bots and Builders" events that encourage programmers, designers, and explorers -- of all ages -- to use the library's latest teaching tools and robots to learn and investigate. It features robots, circuit boards, and a 3D printer.

The **Salmon Public Library** hosts "Maker Monday" events, which feature student-led projects.



The **Twin Falls Public Library** is renting outdoor game kits to its patrons. Library cardholders can rent such games as ladder ball, washers, horseshoes, and disc golf. The games may be rented for one week, with no renewals. Circulation Supervisor C.J. Rasmussen said, "It's summertime, so it's the perfect time for us to get something like this out there. We've been talking about it for a while, and we finally got them in." Local TV station KMVT even picked up the story.

Extreme Book Nerd Going Strong in Idaho Falls

The Idaho Falls Public Library runs a year-long book challenge, called the Extreme Book Nerd. Patrons dare to read 50 books in 50 weeks.

Library staff come up with 50 categories that books could fit into, such as "a ghost story," "a book you've been meaning to read," and "a famous author's lesser known work." Patrons choose a book to read that they feel will fit into each category -- staff even make bookmarks with suggestions to help. Patrons keep a log of their reading efforts.

This year's Extreme Book Nerd (EBN) challenge kicked off January 3 and runs through December 21, 2017. The deadline to sign up (for qualifying patrons) is July 31, 2017. The challenge is for patrons of the Idaho Falls Public Library and includes patrons in Iona and Swan Valley.

For book nerds who live outside these areas, follow along and join the discussion on the EBN Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/extremebooknerd/>.

For more information, visit the Idaho Falls Public Library website at: <http://www.ifpl.org/extreme-book-nerd/>.



SPLAT Summer Adventure

On July 27, the Special Projects Library Action Team (SPLAT) will divide into four groups and visit eight southwest Idaho libraries in the towns of: Council, Midvale, New Plymouth, Middleton, Notus, Homedale, Glens Ferry, and Grandview.

The SPLAT members will showcase the SPLAT Idea Lab and introduce a variety of technology-based and non-technical tools for teaching STEM and other activities. The Idea Lab includes a 3D printer, dash and dot robots, Edison robots, circuit blocks, Sphero, the app-controlled robot ball, and KEVA planks, which can bring STEM activities to life.

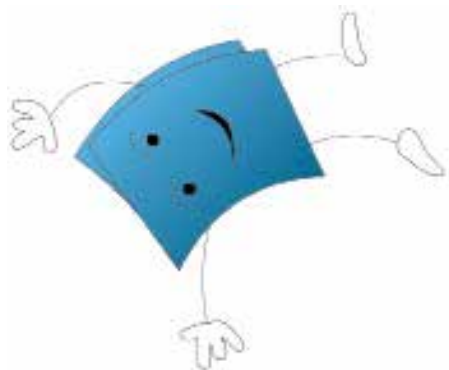
This will be the last Summer Adventure for the Idea Lab. It will be retired, allowing the SPLAT members to focus on design-thinking and other areas.



Tumblebooks App Updated

Tumblebooks, the database of children's ebooks that the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) provides to public libraries, recently experienced issues with its iTunes app. But that Tumblebooks iTunes app has now been updated.

Please have patrons download the update. Patrons should then be able to log-in by identifying our state, your library, and their library card number.



If your public library has not set up the option to allow patrons to access Tumblebooks via mobile devices, please contact Deb Silver, at Tumblebooks at: deb@tumblebooks.com. She can walk you through the very simple set-up process.

If you have other questions related to Tumblebooks, please contact the ICfL's Tammy Hawley-House at: tammy.hawleyhouse@libraries.idaho.gov.

ICfL Board Toured North ID Libraries

Continued on Page 17.

In April, the Board of the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) toured six northern Idaho libraries. They were: the Boundary County Library in Bonners Ferry; the East Bonner County District Library in Sandpoint; the Fernan STEM Academy Elementary School Library in Coeur d'Alene; the Main Branch and the Lake City Branch of the Coeur d'Alene Public Library in Coeur d'Alene; and the Post Falls Branch of the Community Library Network in Post Falls.

The ICfL Board members are: John Held, Chair; Pat Raffee; Janet Franklin; Mark Alldredge; and Dave Mecham. Accompanying the Board members from the ICfL were: State Librarian Ann Joslin; Deputy State Librarian Stephanie Bailey-White; Program Supervisor Shirley Biladeau; Public Relations Specialist Donna Eggers; and Northern Idaho Field Consultant Jan Wall, retired.



At the **Boundary County Library in Bonners Ferry**, Director Craig Anderson showed off the MIT Fab Lab, which was a vision of the library's previous Director, Sandy Ashworth, and one that Craig continued after Sandy's retirement.



The Lab currently includes 3D and laser printers, a vinyl cutter, and milling machine. Craig brought an innovative business development program to the library from his days as an educator. (More about the Boundary County Library on Page 18 of this newsletter.)



The ICfL team and Board met up with Director Ann Nichols for a tour of the **East Bonner County District Library in Sandpoint**.



The library has plans for an expansion, which will allow the library team to meet the needs of their community in even more ways than they currently do.



School Librarian Sarah Murray was excited to share some of her many innovations and accomplishments at the **Fernan STEM Academy Elementary School Library in Coeur d'Alene**. Sarah works very hard to make the small library such a welcoming place for the students that it is the first place they want to go, not the last. Even with her extremely limited resources, Sarah is able to give the youngsters what they need and reach them in the most appropriate and effective ways.



ICfL Board Toured North ID Libraries

Continued from Page 16.

Director Bette Ammon met up with the group at the Lake City and Main Branches of the **Coeur d'Alene Public Library**. The **Lake City Branch** is the realization of an innovative concept to house a public library branch within a high school library.



Lake City Branch Manager J.D. Smithson showed everyone how well the idea works for both the public library and the student patrons. Bette and J.D. collaborate well with the school's librarian and administration and are making this new model a success. Open for just over a year, the Lake City branch is regularly utilized by those living nearby. And as the location becomes more well-known in the rapidly growing Coeur d'Alene area, it will, no doubt, become even more popular.



The ICfL Board and staff were wowed by the beautiful **Main Branch** of the **Coeur d'Alene Public Library**.

From the grand entrance, right through to the children's area -- complete with paw prints in the carpet -- Bette and her team have created a wonderfully unique experience for their patrons and the community.



The last stop on the whirlwind tour was the **Post Falls Branch** of the **Community Library Network** in **Post Falls**. Director John Hartung showed the group renderings of the library's planned renovations. John and his team have already accomplished so much for their community, and they have much more on the horizon.



More ICfL Board News

Governor Otter recently approved the reappointment of John Held to serve another term on the Board of Commissioners for the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL). John is the 1st Congressional District Representative and is the Board's current Chair. When he joined the ICfL Board in 2009, John brought nearly 20 years of experience as a trustee for the Payette Public Library to his role as trustee for the Commission. State Librarian Ann Joslin said, "John's experience, coupled with his practical knowledge of library operations and their role in the community, have been invaluable to the Commission. We look forward to John's continued participation on the Commission's Board, and his help to promote libraries, both at the local level and throughout the Gem State."



Idaho
Commission
for Libraries

Board of Commissioners will tour libraries
in the **southwest** area of the state
in October of this year.

Boundary Co. Nominated as the Best

Meridian Library District Director Gretchen Caserotti nominated the Boundary County Library for the *Best Small Library in America Award*. (More about the Library on Page 16 of this newsletter.) Boundary County is large, rural, and remote. Located at the top of Idaho's panhandle, Boundary County is closer to the Canadian border than to the Idaho state capitol of Boise, 500 miles to the south. In fact, the county's closest city is Spokane, Washington, located 100 miles to the west -- via a scenic, mostly two-lane mountainous highway. Beautiful in the spring and summer -- often treacherous in the winter.

The library is a significant resource for this isolated community in ways that are both traditional and progressive. It provides services unavailable anywhere else in the county or the surrounding areas in Idaho, Washington, Montana, or British Columbia. One of the most remarkable of those resources is the MIT Fab Lab, which was the vision of now retired Director Sandy Ashworth, who generated support for the project from the library's Board and the community, along with the grant funding she secured. Sandy developed strong county-wide library service and support by getting "out of the stacks and into the community." The new Director, Craig Anderson, is continuing that tradition.

The Fab Lab currently includes 3D and laser printers, a vinyl cutter, and milling machine. According to Sandy, the day the milling machine arrived, "every man in town" came to the Library. The Lab has attracted a number of volunteers who help others learn how to use the tools. In addition, online certification classes are available for anyone who wants to utilize their skills at the next level, such as professionally. The Library offers computers and access to statewide databases, LearningExpress Library, e-books, and audio books, as well as gaming computers. In addition to supporting early literacy, the Library holds reading events for patrons of all ages, such as the popular community reading event held during the winter. The Library also serves those in the county who cannot read standard print due to a physical disability by actively promoting the ICfL's Talking Book Service.

The Boundary County Library is a model for the amazing things that can happen when a library director, staff, and board truly listen to the needs and aspirations of their community, and then take action to not only meet those needs, but exceed them.



ICfL's Enhancement Requests

State Fiscal Year 2019

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) has been planning its budgetary needs for the upcoming State fiscal year (FY) 2019, which runs July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019. The ICfL's federal funding originates through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and is administered through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

With the possibility of partial or complete defunding of the IMLS, the Commission's State Budget Enhancement Requests have more significance for the ICfL and Idaho's libraries than in any prior year. The ICfL's federal funding makes up approximately one-third of the Commission's annual budget. The elimination of its federal funding would severely jeopardize the ICfL's ability to carry out its mission of assisting Idaho libraries to build the capacity to better serve their communities.

For FY2019, the Enhancement Request that is the number one priority for the ICfL, pending final approval by the ICfL Board, is to move the Talking Book Service (TBS) from federal to state funds. TBS is a free library service for people who are blind or otherwise unable to read standard print due to a physical disability. (More about the TBS program on Pages 1 - 3 of this newsletter.) The program is designed to be a partnership between the Library of Congress' National Library Service (NLS) and the designated state agency, which, for Idaho, is the ICfL. But, since 2009, the TBS has been entirely federally funded in Idaho -- a choice the ICfL made in order to continue the program when the Commission faced significant budget cuts in FY2010.

If this Budget Enhancement Request is approved by the Governor* and funded by the Idaho Legislature, the ICfL would use the freed-up federal funds (if they continue) to carry out its mission, with a focus on preparing Idahoans to be college and career ready.

If the ICfL's federal funding is severely curtailed or eliminated, the Commission would face difficult choices about which programs and services to cut and which ones to continue providing to the more than 850 public, school, academic, and special libraries in Idaho communities -- large and small -- throughout the Gem State.

*The Idaho Legislature can fund the Enhancement Request, even if it is not approved by the Governor.

Next Up:

August 23, 2017 -- ICfL Board Meeting, Boise
Idaho Commission for Libraries' (ICfL) Board of Commissioners
to vote on the ICfL's proposed State Budget Enhancement Requests for FY19.

Calling All Idaho Entrepreneurs:

The Small Business Development Center Will Hold Technology Funding Workshops in Six Idaho Cities

The Idaho Small Business Development Center (SBDC), headquartered in the College of Business and Economics at Boise State University, is teaming up with the Idaho National Laboratory and the Idaho Department of Commerce to bring a series of small business funding workshops to communities across Idaho. The Idaho Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) **Road Tour** will highlight state and national grant programs, as well as local business resources for Idaho's technology entrepreneurs and small business owners.

Researchers and small technology firms can learn how to access \$2.5 billion in grants through the SBIR and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. These programs, funded through the Small Business Administration, encourage domestic small businesses to engage in high-growth technology research and development with potential for commercialization in the market.

Three of the events will be held at public libraries and three will be at the local Small Business Development Center. But whether your library is hosting one of these SBIR Road Tours or not, you can still help get the word out to your community about the workshop in your area and/or the program, in general.

As libraries continue to redefine their roles, often based on the needs of their patrons and communities, hosting and/or communicating these technology funding workshops will showcase your library as being at the forefront of economic development in your area of the state and supporting budding entrepreneurs.

The stops for the SBIR Road Tour will be:

August 1, 2017

Lemhi County District Library, Salmon

August 14, 2017

Idaho Falls Small Business Development Center, Idaho Falls

August 15, 2017

Small Business Development Center at the ISU College of Business, Pocatello

August 29, 2017

Small Business Development Center at CSI, Taylor Building, Twin Falls

October 19, 2017

Lewiston Public Library, Lewiston

October 20, 2017

Coeur d'Alene Public Library, Coeur d'Alene



Entrepreneurs and small business owners can register to attend a workshop at: idahosbdc.org/roadtour. For more information, contact Idaho Small Business Development Program Manager, Dave McEwen, at: DaveMcEwen@boisestate.edu.

Upcoming Dates to Know

Aug. 5

Required to Dial
the Area Code
for ALL Calls
Made in Idaho
(including local)



Sept. 15

Summer Reading
Report Due
to the ICfL
Visit: <http://www.libraries.idaho.gov>
and Click on the "Summer
Reading" Tab (left side of
home page)



Oct. 4 - 6

Idaho Library Assoc.
(ILA)
Annual Conference
Garden City
(Boise Area)



Nov. 2 - 3

Read to Me
Rendezvous
Boise

(Contact Staci Shaw, ICfL,
for more information.)



Boise Public Library,
Library! @ Bown Crossing

Trustee Changes?

If you have changes in the contact information for a trustee of your library, please update that information with the ICfL's Tina Schilling at: tina.schilling@libraries.idaho.gov.